



NORES NEWS

April 2019 – The month dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*



Shrine of Loreto

CHRIST LIVES, OUR HOPE – from Pope Francis to our young people – to be published 2 April 2019!

Pope Francis signed the post synodal Apostolic Exhortation to young people on Monday during his visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto where he celebrated Mass inside the Holy House on the feast of the Annunciation. When Mass was over, the Pontiff signed the synod document on the altar under the image of Mary seeking her protection for a fruitful pastoral outcome. Entitled “Christus vivit – Christ lives”, the Apostolic Exhortation to young people worldwide is the result of last October’s Synod. During his visit to Loreto, Pope Francis spoke about the Exhortation and explained that there are three sections to the document, which mirror three phases of the Synod process. Explaining its structure, he used the story of the Annunciation as his theme. “In the event of the Annunciation the dynamic of the vocation appears, expressed in the three moments that marked the Synod: 1) listening to the Word-project of God; 2) discernment; 3) decision,” he said.

DOCUMENT ON HUMAN FRATERNITY

Following their meeting in UAE Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, have issued a joint document which they want to become the object of study and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of education and formation. The hope is that such an effort might contribute towards inspiring new generations to promote peace and the common good and, in particular, to defend the rights of the oppressed. Google.vatican.va/ **A DOCUMENT ON HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER**

The document begins :

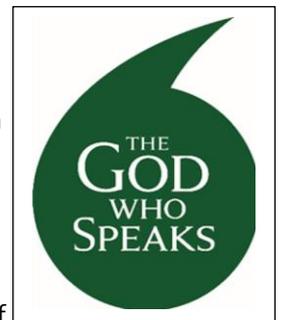
Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved. Through faith in God, who has created the universe, creatures and all human beings (equal on account of his mercy), believers are called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need.

The current title of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar was officially established in 1961, but has a longer history dating back to the 14th century. It is a prominent title and office within Sunni Islam in Egypt (sometimes also known as the Grand Sheikh). He is considered by some Muslims to be the highest authority in Sunni Islamic thought and Islamic jurisprudence and holds a great influence on followers of the theological Ash'ari and Maturidi traditions worldwide. The Grand Imam Heads the Al-Azhar Mosque, and by extension Al-Azhar University.

2020 - Year of the Bible

*The God Who Speaks:
A Year of the Word.*

This is advance notice about a Year of the Bible to be held in the Church in England and Wales next year. The year 2020 is the tenth anniversary of **Verbum Domini** – Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600th anniversary of



St Jerome’s death. These dates have motivated the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to make 2020 a year of focus on *The God Who Speaks*.

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

- 2 May Liturgy in Schools Day
- 7 June Chaplaincy & RE Conference
- 11 June RE in the Early Years
- 27 June Come & See Day

Book your courses now! admin@nores.org.uk

THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.



Direct from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, Redemptorist Publications, ASDA et al.

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

Come and See Inset - The next Come and See day will take place on **Thursday 27 June, 2019** here at NORES, this will focus on preparing for the Advent Term.

New Standards in RE - Please download the Come and See topics from the NORES website (rather than the Come and See website) as these have the age-related standards for each year group added in red for every learning focus. You will still need to access the Come and See website for any additional resources you may need eg. PowerPoints and scripture readings. At our RE Subject Leaders this week we began work on forming greater depth tasks. So watch this space!

Early Years Day - This is a day for early years practitioners across the diocese. We will have three presentations from outstanding teachers and there will be plenty of opportunity to share thoughts and ideas. If you haven't booked a place yet please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

School Visits - I am looking forward to the school visits in the Pentecost term and celebrating all the good things going on in our schools.

Year of Missio - I have received lots of positive feedback so far. The Missio resources for April include a PowerPoint of the Stations of the Cross and a case study in Cambodia.

RE Subject Leaders Day - Our next day together is on **Friday 7 June, 2019**. This will be a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains CJM

Real Easter Egg Company - I am sure you will have seen Easter Eggs in the shops that also include a leaflet containing the story of Easter. There is also a mini version available for £1.00 from the Mount St Bernard Abbey Shop. www.mountsaintbernard.org/gift-shop

Just a thought - Pope Francis said recently 'Lent is a good time to concentrate on fighting the urge to gossip about others' It's a huge challenge. I'm up for it – are you?

And Finally - If you have any queries about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a restful holiday over the Easter break. May holy week unfold within us as well as before us.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Dear Colleagues

Many thanks to all of you who contributed directly or indirectly to the recent success of our A-level Religious Studies Conference. We intend this to be an annual event in the calendar and so are glad that it got off to a good start.

Dates for Diaries

Catholic Basics: The Church, 11 April 2019

Catholic Basics: The Moral Life, 16 May 2019

Catholic Basics: Prayer, 13 June 2019

Annual RE Conference, 7 June 2019

The fifth Sunday of Lent traditionally marked the beginning of *Passiontide* and there survives today a custom in some parishes of veiling statues and crucifixes. In the time of their medieval pomp, cathedrals and churches would be a dazzle of colour and ornateness. Statues and decorative carvings would be brightly painted, sometimes using expensive pigments like the blue of lapis lazuli (which came from far off Afghanistan). Perhaps covering statues, crosses, crucifixes and images lent a sombreness to the final weeks of Lent, echoing how Jesus 'hid himself, and went out of the Temple' (Jn 8:59). As an activity, pupils could research the custom of and meanings behind the veiling of statues, images and

crucifixes in Lent. There is also an opportunity for a cross-curricular project with English and History in exploring the Anglo-Saxon poem *The Dream of the Rood*. This Christian poem presents Jesus' sacrificial death in a way meant to stir the sensibilities of a warrior culture in transition from pagan to Christian ways. The Rood (Cross) is a character in the poem.

When I survey the wondrous Cross

On which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss,

And pour contempt on all my pride. Isaac Watts, 1709

NYMO

Neil Roseman

Please visit our brand new website www.nymo.org. We are really pleased with it and hope you will find it enjoyable and useful! Upcoming events:

May 4-6 : Girls True Survivor Weekend.

May 25 – 27 : Boys True Survivor. These amazing weekends of outdoor survival techniques in the wild mixed with spiritual survival techniques for our Catholic faith. The cost is £100 for the weekend including transport from within our diocese. For all Those aged 13-18yrs.

4 -8 August 2019 : Summer Camp 2019 : This hugely popular event is always booked up quickly. We have limited places available. Biking, trekking, abseiling, fencing, archery, daily Mass, Reconciliation a day out at Alton Towers and much more. The camp stretches over 5 days staying in Alton Castle (so not strictly camping!) and is open to 11-18year olds. The cost is a minimum donation of £205 with an actual cost of £295 and we ask people to pay what they can afford. Transport is provided from pick up points within the diocese.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for April* For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

FEAST DAYS

16 April St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes

Because of the late Easter this year St George's Feast Day will be kept on Tuesday 30 April

THE SWISS GUARD of the Holy Father

- their new website – worth looking at!

- www.schweizergarde.ch/paepstliche-schweizergarde/en/about-us/

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

St Luke Academies Trust:

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Mr Eamonn McAuley, Miss Claire Smith –

FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Tom Lyons, Mrs Elaine Hollenbeck

Mrs Liz Robinson-Donagher

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Strategic Executive Leads –

to the MATs in Formation :

St Thomas – Joe Richardson

Our Lady Immaculate - Tony Bishop

Head Teacher –

Good Shepherd, Northampton. Carmel Dodds

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Stronger together, working in collaboration – next steps

Following the decision by the Bishop and the Trustees to work towards forming 2 large Regional MATs in the Diocese the exciting work of seizing the opportunities offered in developing a structure and implementing the decision has begun. The focus of all of these discussions is to use the expertise within our schools to ensure the highest possible standards in all of our schools in all aspects of school life but in particular promoting the distinct offer we provide for parents, their children and all of our staff in having a personal relationship with Christ. Discussion on how the work at partnership level will be developed to strengthen school improvement, ensure accountability and provide robust governance will be taking place in meetings with partnership heads and chairs groups, working groups made up of representatives of all partnerships in the Diocese and feeding back through named leads to the core group which have monthly meetings. If you have any questions about any of these developments please contact me at curtis@nores.org.uk

Ofsted Consultation I know many colleagues will have attended the consultation events on the new inspection framework. Amanda Speilman (Chief Inspector) was a speaker at the ASCL conference and Sean Harford (National Director) was a speaker at the CES meeting last week. The key messages from Sean Harford were;
Curriculum; intent (leadership and management), implementation (quality of teaching and learning) and impact (outcomes). There will be a focus on reading, in particular are children being taught early enough to decode words and develop good reading skills. Has the content of the curriculum been learned in a way that will be retained over the long term.

Workload balance: Ofsted have been asked to look at the consideration to workload by the leadership of a school. As part of this they are proposing that they not consider in year school data during an inspection. This is not to say that schools should not use data and assessment throughout the year to monitor progress and the impact of interventions. The view of Ofsted is that the current practice of reviewing in year data during a 2 day inspection places too much emphasis on how a school interprets and can present data.

Practical considerations during the inspection: The current practice of spending the first hour and a half on site arranging the inspection timetables is difficult for inspectors. A proposal which Sean admitted was causing the most negative feedback so far is that inspectors carry out this planning with school leaders on site during the afternoon of the day prior to inspection.

The consultation is open until 5 April the draft documents for the new inspection framework are available to help you to review the implications for your school.

CES Statement on Union Consultation We have been made aware of issues being raised by Union officials in relation to the CES model policies and procedures. Questions have been asked about the extent of any consultation with the Unions concerning the provisions of the model employment policies and procedures. We can confirm that the CES has consulted with the Unions but for

the avoidance of doubt there is no requirement for the CES to seek ratification of the policies and procedures from any Union. We encourage all schools to have a continuing dialogue with the Unions representing their workforce, but we would like to remind schools that there is no requirement to agree specific provisions with them. There is a full statement from the CES on NORES website.

GDPR and the audit of procedures by schools by the Independent Commissioners Office In a recent audit of a sample of schools the ICO made a list of key recommendations which provides an indication of the specific steps the ICO will be expecting schools to take. In particular:

A. management need to consider the importance of providing both regular generalist data protection training to all members of staff (all of whom must, for instance, recognise subject access requests), as well as specialist training for key individuals.

B. Schools need to establish some need to create expansive data maps which provide all the relevant bases for processing data and crucial information and describe the technical safeguards the school has put in place. These need to be monitored, updated and maintained by key individuals within the school.

C. Finally, schools need to create expansive data maps which provide all the relevant bases for processing data and crucial information and describe the technical safeguards the school has put in place. These need to be monitored, updated and maintained by key individuals

The full list of recommendations can be found on NORES website.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Debbie Main

Academy Directors Required

The leaders, governors and directors of our Catholic schools are central to ensuring that the spiritual and academic life is the best it can be. Helping them and supporting more people to take on these rôles is crucial for the future of Catholic education in our diocese. If you have specific skills outlined below, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies trust (OLICAT) will initially comprise of the Catholic academies in Bedford, Northampton, Kettering and Corby.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust (STCAT) will initially comprise of the Catholic academies in Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Slough.

The new Diocesan MATs will be formed in January 2020 and Bishop Peter is looking to have a shadow board of Trust Foundation Directors in place for the Pentecost term 2019.

We are looking to appoint practicing Catholics with a variety of skills and experience including the following:

- Human Resources/People Management
- Education Governance
- Finance and Risk Management
- Catholic Life/Formation
- Business/Marketing

For further details and an application pack please contact Debbie Main on 01582 723312 or main@nores.org.uk .

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY *Alex Heath*

YOUCAT for Kids Sessions Due to the snow that came at the beginning of February the sessions at St Aidan's RC Church hall, Little Chalfont (SOUTH-EAST BUCKS) and Our Lady of Grace RC Church hall (SOUTH BUCKS) were postponed. Having liaised with High Wycombe there will now be one joint session for both cohorts. This will take place at: *St Aidan's RC Church Hall, Finch Lane, Little Chalfont, Bucks HP7 9NE on Saturday 27 April 2019, 10.30am-12pm. All welcome.*

The YOUCAT for kids is a wonderful new resource aimed at younger children. It is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. During these 90 minute sessions there will be the opportunity to: *browse the YOUCAT for Kids, be guided through a method of using the YOUCAT for Kids, have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque made payable to R.E. Service) & hear about support and training for catechists.*

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited at some of the venues and to help us with ordering sufficient numbers of YOUCAT for Kids books. Please book early via the NORES office on admin@nores.org.uk. A map for the venues can be found on the Church finder at www.northamptondiocese.org

CJM Music leading our Joint RE & Chaplaincy Conference

On Friday 7 June 2019 from 9.30am-3pm at the RE Centre CJM Music will be bringing liturgy to life for us at our joint



RE & Chaplaincy Conference. Jo Boyce of CJM Music is a Catholic musician, worship leader, liturgist and songwriter. She is the director and co-founder of CJM MUSIC, based in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The mission of CJM MUSIC (www.cjmmusic.com) is to inspire, support and resource all those involved in music and liturgy. Over the years, Jo Boyce has been a regular face on BBC Songs of Praise, and a familiar voice on many Sunday Radio programmes which play the music of 'Boyce & Stanley'. Jo is probably best-known as the co-writer of the popular Communion song 'Bread of Life, Truth Eternal. During this training day there will be plenty of singing of hymns old and new, and resources to help to inspire and equip you with new ideas for animating the life of prayer and worship in your school. Booking via the NORES office.

Scripture Day Saturday 13 July 2019 for anyone interested in growing in their understanding of Scripture. This will be for anyone involved in a Bible Timeline Scripture study group or other Bible Study groups or indeed for anyone who is interested in starting a group, or simply interested in Scripture. The day will run from 10am (arrivals) for a 10.30am start through to 4pm and will include Mass and a presentation by Fleur Dorrell on a Year of the Word initiative for 2020 'The God Who Speaks' by the Catholic Bishops' Conference in partnership with the Bible Society. There will also be an introduction to various courses and resources by parishioners who have used them. Our venue will be St Gregory the Great RC Church, Northampton. A poster with all the details will be circulated around Easter.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



At the end of this Lent term, many thanks to all the schools who have invited us to deliver assemblies and workshops. We have been delighted to share our Lenten themes with you all and have been humbled by the children's mature and sensitive response to the story of Mahinur and her family. Next term our offer includes the areas of caring for our world and sustainability which continues the theme of communities struggling with the effects of climate change. In his letter "Laudate Si" Pope Francis tells us that the earth is our common home and that we have a sacred duty to look after the beautiful world which we were given. One way to respond to this message is to achieve the "Live Simply" Award. This may seem like "just another thing to do" in the midst of all your but it is something which can be led by the children and can make a real difference to your community. We have some terrific resources for this and your school volunteer will be more than happy to help. There is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in an epic mass climate lobby outside Parliament on Wednesday 26 June, to speak up for our common home with over 100 like-minded organisations - members of the Climate Coalition - making our voices heard by politicians. Let us know if your school would like to be part of this event which will be an amazing experience for your students.

A prayer during Lent: *As we continue this season of Lent, we pray Lord, that we will listen and respond generously to the call to support people such as Mahinur from Bangladesh in their battle to survive the devastating effect, on their lives and livelihoods, of climate change. Amen*

Jane Trott – CAFOD education volunteer coordinator - jtrott@cafod.org.uk 01494 863 777

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



Lent is an intense period of preparation for the solemn reliving of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, which we will shall participate in through the great liturgies of the Sacred Triduum. To paraphrase the author of our Lent book ("Rediscover Jesus", Matthew Kelly) Lent is the time to, **stop everything, pause a little and consider the invitation** that is extended to each one of us: to intimately know Jesus. I find myself pondering if I have truly accepted that personal invitation or have I metaphorically mislaid or even discarded it? Many of us will have stumbled in our Lenten discipline. At a deeper level we have all fallen. Kelly says: "I am wounded, imperfect and broken". This describes us all. To that end, we must look to the One who alone can restore us: Jesus of Nazareth. For over two thousand years Jesus has been performing miracles in the lives of ordinary people **like us**. He wants to do the same **for us**. But are we ready to be transfigured with the glory of the risen Christ or do we want to remain wounded, imperfect and broken? Lent is the superlative opportunity to enter our wounds, imperfections and brokenness and thus prepare ourselves for the glory that awaits us on Easter Sunday. I hope you will each have an opportunity to use the **wonderful new Missio "Stations of the Cross"** (available from the Mission Together) website! Better still, why not invite me or one of our volunteers to lead these for inviting us to lead a school assembly. For now: Happy Lent! In due course: Happy Easter! *Fr Wayne*, parishpriestbedford@gmail.com